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ORIGIN ARA-20

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: CI, PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS SEPTEMBER 20 ON
CUBA QUESTIONS

REF: A) STATE 207439; B) STATE 207795; C) STATE 208839

1. REF C GAVE THE TEXT OF THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION WHICH WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY SEPTEMBER 20. THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THAT DECISION.

2. AMBASSADOR SOLANO LOPEZ OF PARAGUAY SPOKE FIRST. HE NOTED THAT THE ORIGINAL COSTA RICA-COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA DRAFT HAD SEEMED TO INSIST THAT THE CUBA SANCTIONS WERE BASED ON THE "WORLD SITUATION" IN 1964. IN FACT THE RESOLUTION SETTING UP THE SANCTIONS REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO CUBAN ACTS TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD STUDY WHETHER CUBA IS STILL INTERVENING. PARAGUAY AGREED WITH BRAZIL THAT THE COUNCIL, ACTING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTA-

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TION, SHOULD DRAFT A REPORT PRIOR TO THE QUITO MEETING,

BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY MEMBERS.

3. AMBASSADOR VALDERRAMA OF COLOMBIA SAID THAT UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THE COSTA RICA-COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA DRAFT WOULD GO FAR TOWARD GIVING BACK TO THE OAS SOME OF ITS LOST POLITICAL INFLUENCE.

4. AMBASSADOR MCINTYRE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FAVORED THE TRIPARTITE RESOLUTION. HE SAID TRINIDAD HAS BEEN AN ARDENT PROMOTER OF DEMOCRACY IN THE HEMISPHERE, BUT BELIEVES THAT CASTRO-COMMUNISM MUST ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED.

5. AMBASSADOR PENA OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SPOKE BRIEFLY SUPPORTING THE TRIPARTITE DRAFT.

6. AMBASSADOR FLETCHER OF JAMAICA SUPPORTED BOTH THE TRIPARTITE DRAFT AND THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS.

7. AMBASSADOR SEVILLA SACASA OF NICARAGUA SAID HE WOULD VOTE FOR THE HOLDING OF THE QUITO MFM. BUT HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE RESOLUTION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE NOT SEEM TO PREJUDGE THE CASE. HE SAID NICARAGUA HAD FAVORED A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.

8. AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS OF BARBADOS SAID SANCTIONS SHOULD BE LIFTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF PLURALITY OF IDEOLOGIES.

9. AMBASSADOR BOUCHETTE OF HAITI EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF "THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION". BUT HE ADDED THAT "IF, AFTER INVESTIGATION, THE MOTIVES FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA IN 1964 NO LONGER EXIST, IT WOULD BE INCUMBENT ON THE RIO TREATY TO TAKE MEASURES REQUIRED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES TO CEASE APPLYING THEM. MY GOVERNMENT, AS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND CONCORD AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF AMERICA, WOULD MAKE NO OBJECTION TO THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS."
(BOUCHETTE'S REMARKS HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED IN THE PRESS AS FAVORING LIFTING SANCTIONS. IN CONTEXT, THEIR IMPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEEMS LESS DEFINITE.)

10. AMBASSADOR BERTRAND GALINDO OF EL SALVADOR SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL, BUT FELT THAT ALL LANGUAGE WHICH MIGHT PREJUDGE THE CASE SHOULD BE DROPPED FROM THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.

11. INTERIM REPRESENTATIVE LORIA OF BOLIVIA SAID THAT HE

WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION, THOUGH HE OBJECTED TO THE LACK OF ANY REFERENCE TO CUBA'S ACTS WHICH OCCASIONED THE SANCTIONS IN 1964. HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, AND IF EVEN ONE COUNTRY PROVES THAT CUBA IS STILL INTERVENING, THE SANCTIONS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

12. INTERIM REPRESENTATIVE CLEAVES OF HONDURAS AND AMBASSADOR CASTILLO OF GUATEMALA SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE TRIPARTITE DRAFT.

13. EARLY IN THE DEBATES JAMAICA HAD INDICATED THAT IT FELT THAT AS LONG AS THE PERMANENT COUNCIL WAS ACTING QUASIPERMANENT COUNCIL AND NOT AS PROVISIONAL ORGAN OF CONSULTATION, JAMAICA AND BARBADOS SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT RIO TREATY MEMBERS. WHEN THIS VIEW MET HEAVY OPPOSITION, THE TWO SAID THEY WOULD VOLUNTARILY REFRAIN FROM VOTING.

14. CHILE AND URUGUAY PRESENTED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRIPARTITE DRAFT ELIMINATING FROM THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE PREAMBLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS: "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT EXISTED IN 1964" AND DROPPING FROM OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 1 THE FOLLOWING WORDS: "IN STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION OF ONE STATE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PREVAILED WHEN THE MEASURES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA WERE ADOPTED".

15. THE PROPONENTS OF THESE AMENDMENTS SAID THAT ELIMINATION OF THESE WORDS WOULD AVOID ANY PREJUDGING OF THE ISSUES, MAKING THE RESOLUTION COMPLETELY NEUTRAL. THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHDREW THEIR AMENDMENTS, HOWEVER, WHEN THE CO-SPONSORS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THEM. CHILE AND URUGUAY WERE PLACATED WITH A NEW PARAGRAPH IN THE RESOLUTION'S PREAMBLE, "TAKING NOTE" OF VARIOUS DELEGATIONS' STATEMENTS.

16. THE COUNCIL THEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, 21-0, TO APPROVE THE DRAFT.

17. AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING AMBASSADOR PITTY OF PANAMA, "EXPLAINING HIS VOTE", GAVE A HARSHLY WORDED DEFENSE OF ITS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON CUBA, INCLUDING THE RECENT RENEWAL OF RELATIONS. HE ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION TO ATTACK THE RIO TREATY: "WHY NOT SAY THAT THIS INSTRUMENT -- SANCROSANCT FOR SOME -- HAS ALSO SERVED TO LEGALIZE THE MOST OPPROBRIOUS INTERVENTIONS THIS CENTURY HAS KNOWN? AND

WHY NOT ADMIT THAT IT IS STILL AN ELEMENT OF COERCION, THE
GHOST WITH WHICH ARE THREATENED THOSE WHO DO NOT CARE TO
WEAR A NOOSE AND WHO TRY TO BUILD FOR THEIR CHILDREN A
FREE, INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN FATHERLAND?" HE CONTINUED:
"NEITHER DO WE ACCEPT THE ALLEGED ABSOLUTE UNTOUCHABILITY
OF TREATIES, THOUGH AS A SMALL AND RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE WE
HAVE COMPLIED WITH THOSE TREATIES WHICH ARE VALID AND WE
HAVE HAD COMPLIANCE WITH ILLEGALLY IMPOSED TREATIES FORCED
UPON US." KISSINGER

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